

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children



Fact Sheet



Iowa Department of Education
January 2011



About the Four-Year-Old Program

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR A QUALITY LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Iowa's Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children (Preschool Program) is an important part of the state's comprehensive early childhood effort, providing more opportunities for young children to access quality preschool and enter school ready to learn.

The Preschool Program was established May 10, 2007, in House File 877.

In the fall of 2010, more than 24,000 Iowa preschoolers in 325 school districts will benefit from the Preschool Program by providing at least 10 hours per week of developmentally appropriate instruction.

The Preschool Program along with other state and federally funded preschool programs and community partners in Iowa—such as Head Start, Early Childhood Special Education, Title I, and Shared Visions—make up Iowa's comprehensive preschool.

Quality Preschools Help Children, Communities

RESEARCH SHOWS THE BENEFITS ARE LONG TERM AND FAR REACHING

Young children exposed to high-quality settings exhibit better language and math skills, better cognitive and social skills, and better relationships with classmates than do children in lower-quality settings. Here is the research:

- Evaluations show that children in quality learning environments were less likely to drop out of school, repeat grades, need special education, or get into future trouble with the law than similar children who did not have such exposure. ("In Early-childhood Education and Care: Quality Counts," Education Week – Building Blocks for Success, 2002)
- A study of New Mexico's state-funded prekindergarten shows the program produced meaningful impacts on young children's language, literacy, and math development. In addition, there was an estimated \$5 benefit generated for every dollar invested. (Jason T. Hustedt, W. Steven Barnett, Kwanghee Jung, and Linda D. Goetze, November 2009)
- The "most practical and cost efficient way" of making an economic impact may be providing access for all children. (W. Steven Barnett, director of the National Institute for Early Education Research, at Rutgers University)
- A study of the High Scope Foundation's Perry Preschool showed that at age 27, former Perry Preschool students demonstrated positive differences from the control group in educational attainment, home ownership, incarceration, and employment. ("Investing in Preschool," American School Board Journal, January 2003)
- A similar study of former Chicago Child-Parent Center Program students showed similar results to the Perry study. Both studies also pointed out that a dollar invested in preschool saved the taxpayer \$7 in cost for later services such as jails and drug detoxification centers. ("Leaving Too Many Children Behind," Institute for Educational Leadership, April 2003).

ENROLLMENT

19,799 out of a projected 38,916 4-year olds in Iowa in 2011

- 5,126 children in 2007-2008
- 9,676 children in 2008-2009
- 13,666 children in 2009-2010
- 19,799 children in 2010-2011

These numbers indicate the four-year-old children **funded through the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program only. An additional 5,000 children participate in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program funded by other sources. More children are served through other state and federal programs.*

PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS

325 districts out of 359 statewide

- 67 new districts* awarded grants in 2007-2008
- 52 new districts* awarded grants in 2008-2009
- 56 new districts* awarded grants in 2009-2010
- 150 new districts* awarded grants in 2010-2011

** Some districts applied as a group or consortium to provide the Preschool Program to children.*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The preschool programs are expected to serve four-year-old children with a range of abilities representing the social, linguistic, cultural, and economic diversity of families with in the communities.

FUNDING

- \$15 million in 2007-2008
- \$32 million* in 2008-2009
- \$42 million* in 2009-2010
- \$64 million* in 2010-2011

** Both grant allocation and formula funding*

The Iowa General Assembly has allocated funding four years to allow new school districts to enter the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children through a grant application each year.

The grant amount, which is based on the number of four-year-old children enrolled, covers the first year of operation of an approved program.

After successfully operating for one year, the program is then funded through a state funding formula, based on the student enrollment.

Allocation of state funds for the Preschool Program is intended to provide predictable, equitable, and sustainable funding.

RANKINGS

According to the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), in 2009—2010, Iowa's national rank was:

- 14th for four-year-old access to quality preschool programming.
- 29th for state spending on access to quality preschool.



What the Four-Year-Old Program Offers Children

- **A licensed teacher.** An early childhood licensed teacher is responsible for designing and implementing effective learning environments using instructional strategies to enhance children's learning.
- **A minimum of 10 hours per week of quality preschool instruction.** Providers may provide "wrap around" programming through other federal, state, or local programming. There may be a charge for these services if not funded through state or federal sources.
- **Community collaboration.** Programs must provide family involvement opportunities such as home visits, family nights, and conferences. The delivery of quality preschool services by the licensed teacher could be provided in the public school setting, or the teacher could collaborate with community-based early childhood programs, nonpublic, faith-based, non-profit, or for profit centers to implement teaching strategies that enhance children's learning and development.
- **High program standards.** School districts and partners select and implement at least one of three approved program standards: the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards, the National Association for the Education of Young Children Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria, or the Head Start Program Performance Standards.
- **High learning standards.** Programs must have rigorous and relevant curriculum and assessments to enhance children's strengths, interests, and knowledge (based on the Iowa Early Learning Standards); and alignment with K-12 standards and academic expectations.
- **Appropriate adult-child ratio of 1 to 10 and a maximum group size of 20.**



Early Indicators of Success

More kindergarteners with quality preschool experience in Iowa at age four were proficient than the kindergarteners without this experience.

Of the kindergarteners who took the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) assessment in 2010 and attended the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children the previous year, **65 percent were proficient** versus 57 percent proficient who had not attended the Preschool Program.

The effectiveness of the Preschool Program was greater for children in poverty. **Fifty-six percent of the children in poverty who had attended the Preschool Program were proficient** versus 46 percent of the children in poverty that had no preschool program.

School districts submit annual data on children participating in the Preschool Program using the Iowa Student ID system. This will allow for both long-term evaluation of the program as well as an understanding of student success for Preschool Program participants.



Iowa School Districts That Participate in the Preschool Program

District Name	County	District Name	County	District Name	County
Adair-Casey	Guthrie	Cardinal	Wapello	Dike-New Hartford	Grundy
Adel DeSoto Minburn	Dallas	Carlisle	Warren	Dows	Wright
AGWSR	Hardin	Carroll	Carroll	Dubuque	Dubuque
A-H-S-T	Pottawattamie	Cedar Falls	Black Hawk	Dunkerton	Black Hawk
Akron Westfield	Plymouth	Cedar Rapids	Linn	Durant	Cedar
Albert City-Truesdale	Buena Vista	Center Point-Urbana	Linn	Eagle Grove	Wright
Albia	Monroe	Centerville	Appanoose	East Buchanan	Buchanan
Alden	Hardin	Central City	Linn	East Central	Jackson
Algona	Kossuth	Central Clinton	Clayton	East Marshall	Marshall
Allamakee	Allamakee	Central Decatur	Clinton	East Union	Union
Allison-Bristow	Butler	Central Lyon	Decatur	Eastern Allamakee	Allamakee
Alta	Buena Vista	Chariton	Lyon	Eddyville-Blakesburg	Wapello
Ames	Story	Charles City	Lucas	Edgewood-Colesburg	Delaware
Anamosa	Jones	Charter Oak-Ute	Floyd	Eldora-New Providence	Hardin
Andrew	Jackson	Cherokee	Crawford	Elk Horn-Kimballton	Shelby
Anita, C and M	Cass	Clarion-Goldfield	Cherokee	Emmetsburg	Palo Alto
Ankeny	Polk	Clarke	Wright	English Valleys	Iowa
Aplington-Parkersburg	Butler	Clarksville	Clarke	Estherville-Lincoln Central	Emmet
Armstrong-Ringsted	Emmet	Clay Central-Everly	Butler	Exira	Audubon
Ar-We-Va	Crawford	Clayton Ridge	Clay	Fairfield	Jefferson
Atlantic	Cass	Clear Creek Amana	Clayton	Forest City	Winnebago
Audubon	Audubon	Clear Lake	Johnson	Fort Dodge	Webster
Aurelia	Cherokee	Clinton	Cerro	Fredericksburg	Chickasaw
Ballard	Story	Colfax-Mingo	Gordo	Fremont	Mahaska
Battle Creek-Ida Grove	Ida	College	Clinton	Fremont-Mills (Farragut, Sidney)	Fremont
Baxter	Jasper	Collins-Maxwell	Jasper	Galva-Holstein	Ida
BCLUW	Grundy	Colo-Nesco	Linn	Garner-Hayfield	Hancock
Bedford	Taylor	Columbus	Story	George-Little Rock	Lyon
Belle Plaine	Benton	Coon Rapids-Bayard	Story	Gilbert	Story
Bellevue	Jackson	Corning	Louisa	Gilmore City-Bradgate	Humboldt
Belmond-Klemme	Wright	Council Bluffs	Carroll	Glenwood	Mills
Bennett	Cedar	Creston (Orient-Mackburg, Prescott)	Adams	Glidden-Ralston	Carroll
Benton	Benton	Dallas Center-Grimes	Pottawattamie	GMG	Tama
Bettendorf	Scott	Danville	Union	Graettinger (Terril)	Palo Alto
Bondurant-Farrar	Polk	Davenport	Dallas	Greene	Butler
Boone	Boone	Davis County	Des Moines	Grinnell-Newburg	Poweshiek
Boyer Valley	Harrison	Decorah	Scott	Griswold	Cass
Brooklyn-Guernsey-Malcom	Poweshiek	Delwood	Davis	Guthrie Center	Guthrie
Burlington	Des Moines	Denison	Winneshie	Hamburg	Fremont
Cal	Franklin	Denver	Clinton	Hampton-Dumont	Franklin
Calamus-Wheatland	Clinton	Des Moines	Crawford	Harlan	Shelby
Camanche	Clinton		Bremer	Harris-Lake Park	Dickinson
			Polk	Hartley Melvin Sanborn	O'Brien
				Highland	Washington

Continued

Iowa School Districts That Participate in the Preschool Program *cont.*

District Name	County	District Name	County	District Name	County
Hinton	Plymouth	New Hampton	Chickasaw	South O'Brien	O'Brien
H-L-V	Iowa	Newell-Fonda	Buena Vista	South Page	Page
Howard-Winneshiek	Howard	Newton	Jasper	South Tama	Tama
Hubbard-Radcliffe	Hardin	Nishna Valley	Mills	South Winneshiek	Winneshiek
Humboldt	Humboldt	Nodaway Valley	Adair	Southeast Polk	Polk
IKM	Crawford	Nora Springs-Rock Falls	Floyd	Southeast Warren	Warren
Independence	Buchanan	North Cedar	Cedar	Southeast Webster - Grand	Webster
Indianola	Warren	North Central	Worth	Southern Cal	Calhoun
Interstate 35	Madison	North Fayette	Fayette	Spencer	Clay
Iowa City	Johnson	North Iowa	Winnebago	Spirit Lake	Dickinson
Iowa Falls	Hardin	North Kossuth	Kossuth	Springville	Linn
Iowa Valley	Iowa	North Linn	Linn	St Ansgar	Mitchell
Janesville Consolidated	Bremer	North Mahaska	Mahaska	Starmont	Fayette
Jefferson-Scranton (East Greene, Paton-Churdan)	Greene	North Polk	Polk	Storm Lake	Buena Vista
Johnston	Polk	North Scott	Scott	Stratford	Hamilton
Keokuk	Lee	North Winneshiek	Winneshiek	Sumner	Bremer
Keota	Keokuk	Northeast	Clinton	Tipton	Cedar
Knoxville	Marion	Northeast Hamilton	Hamilton	Titonka Consolidated	Kossuth
Lake Mills	Winnebago	Norwalk	Warren	Tri-Center	Pottawattamie
Lamoni	Decatur	Odebolt-Arthur	Sac	Tri-County	Keokuk
Laurens-Marathon	Pocahontas	Oelwein	Fayette	Tripoli	Bremer
Lawton-Bronson	Woodbury	Ogden	Boone	Turkey Valley	Winneshiek
Le Mars	Plymouth	Okobojo	Dickinson	Twin Cedars	Marion
Lenox	Taylor	Olin Consolidated	Jones	Twin Rivers	Humboldt
Lewis Central	Pottawattamie	Osage	Mitchell	Underwood	Pottawattamie
Linn-Mar	Linn	Oskaloosa	Mahaska	United	Boone
Lisbon	Linn	Ottumwa	Wapello	Urbandale	Polk
Logan-Magnolia	Harrison	Panorama	Guthrie	Valley	Fayette
Lone Tree	Johnson	PCM	Jasper	Van Buren (Harmony)	Van Buren
Louisa-Muscatine	Louisa	Pekin	Keokuk	Villisca	Montgomery
LuVerne	Kossuth	Pella	Marion	Vinton-Shellsburg	Benton
Lynnville-Sully	Jasper	Perry	Dallas	Waco	Henry
Madrid	Boone	Pleasant Valley	Scott	Walnut	Pottawattamie
Malvern	Mills	Pleasantville	Marion	Wapello	Louisa
Manning	Carroll	Pocahontas Area	Marion	Wapsie Valley	Bremer
Manson Northwest Webster	Calhoun	Pomeroy-Palmer	Calhoun	Washington	Washington
Maple Valley (Anthon-Oto)	Monona	Postville	Allamakee	Waterloo	Black Hawk
Maquoketa	Jackson	Prairie Valley	Webster	Waverly-Shell Rock	Bremer
Maquoketa Valley	Delaware	Preston	Jackson	Wayne	Wayne
Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn	Cherokee	Red Oak (Stanton)	Montgomery	Webster City	Hamilton
Marion	Linn	Remsen-Union	Plymouth	West Bend-Mallard	Palo Alto
Marshalltown	Marshall	River Valley	Woodbury	West Branch	Cedar
Martensdale-St Marys	Warren	Riverside 78	Pottawattamie	West Burlington	Des Moines
Mason City	Cerro Gordo	Rock Valley	Sioux	West Central Valley	Guthrie
Melcher-Dallas	Marion	Rockwell City-Lytton	Calhoun	West Des Moines	Polk
MFL MarMac	Clayton	Rockwell-Swaledale	Cerro Gordo	West Hancock	Hancock
Midland	Jones	Roland-Story	Story	West Harrison	Harrison
Mid-Prairie	Washington	Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rk	Floyd	West Liberty	Muscatine
Missouri Valley	Harrison	Ruthven-Ayrshire	Palo Alto	West Lyon	Lyon
Moc-Floyd Valley	Sioux	Sac (Wall Lake View Auburn)	Sac	West Monona	Monona
Montezuma	Poweshiek	Saydel	Polk	West Sioux	Sioux
Monticello	Jones	Schaller-Crestland	Sac	Western Dubuque	Dubuque
Moravia	Appanoose	Sentral	Kossuth	Westwood	Woodbury
Mormon Trail	Wayne	Sergeant Bluff-Luton	Woodbury	Whiting	Monona
Morning Sun	Louisa	Sheffield Chapin	Franklin	Williamsburg	Iowa
Moulton-Udell	Appanoose	Meservey Thornton	O'Brien	Wilton	Muscatine
Mount Ayr	Ringgold	Sheldon	Osceola	Winfield-Mt Union	Henry
Mount Vernon	Linn	Sibley-Ocheyedan	Keokuk	Winterset	Madison
Murray	Clarke	Sigourney	Buena Vista	Woden-Crystal Lake	Hancock
Muscatine	Muscatine	Sioux Central	Woodbury	Woodbine	Harrison
Nashua-Plainfield	Chickasaw	Sioux City	Johnson	Woodbury Central	Woodbury
Nevada	Story	Solon	Hamilton	Woodward-Granger	Dallas
		South Hamilton			

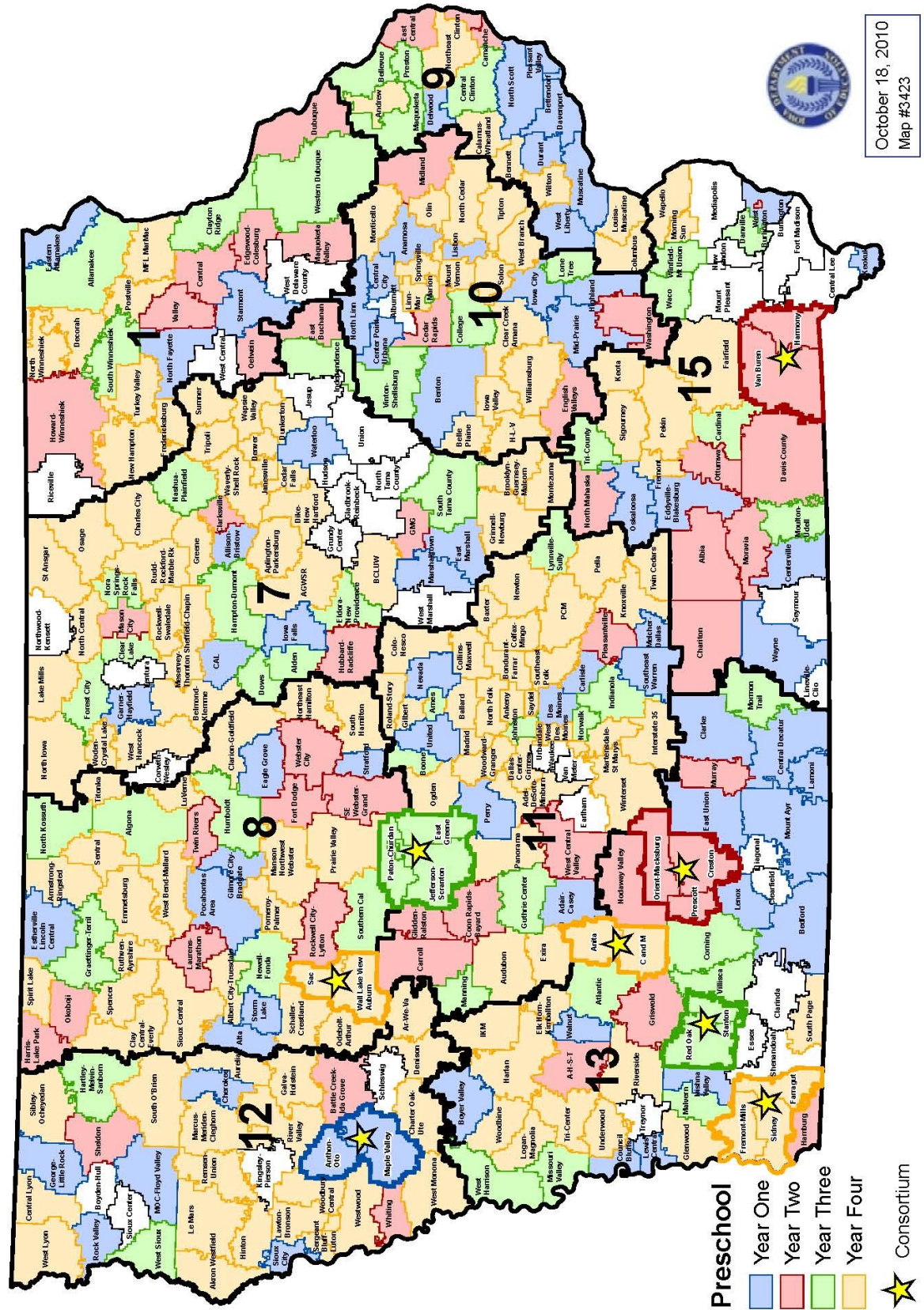
Statewide Voluntary Preschool Districts Integrate with Community Partners

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Number of Districts (includes consortium districts)	67	52	56	150
Licensed Community-Based Child Care or Preschool	Data Not Available	19	19	33
Faith-Based Preschool (Private, Community-Based Preschool Program)	Data Not Available	7	15	15
Non-Public Accredited Schools	Data Not Available	12	9	7
Shared Visions	8	7	4	7
Early Childhood Special Education	52	35	38	108
Head Start	22	20	16	13

Source. Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Application Data, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011.

Note. Data Not Available; data was not collected specific to type of community partner for 2007-2008. Some districts integrated with more than one partner.

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children, Years One Through Four



An electronic version of this map can be found at the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program website:
http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=940&Itemid=1279